

Utsav Popat: CPUC – Executive Committee



I am a first year graduate student studying for a Masters in Finance, and I would like to be one of the graduate representatives on the Executive Committee of the CPUC. The Executive Committee of the CPUC consists of cross-sectional representation across the university – right from the undergraduate representatives to the President of the University. It is not an easy task to present one’s perspectives such that everyone is on the same page in as varied a committee as this – but I believe that my past experiences can help me in this matter.

I was the President of the undergraduate bodies studying Mathematics or Computer Science at the University of Oxford. As part of my role, I had to represent over 1200 undergraduates at meetings with various different Faculty members and Head of Departments. It was at these meetings that I learnt how to best convey the interests of the undergraduate body without antagonizing the very people who could make these changes happen. I gained the skills of knowing what to put forth, of understanding the various perspectives around the table, and of coming to a mutually agreeable conclusion. It was at these meetings that I was able to achieve goals such as changing how take-home examinations were conducted, introducing lecture recording and archival, and ensuring that a sudden increase in intake of students would not harm the current student body.

I hope to receive your vote for my election to this role. I will work closely with the co-representative to CPUC to guarantee that the interests of the graduate student body are well – and strongly – represented at the CPUC, and that changes to any policy affecting graduate students will be communicated in a swift and effective manner.